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To his Most Christian Majesty Lewis XVIII. King of France, &c. &c.

Sir—The veneration of contemporaries, and the veneration of posterity are objects ever dear to the dignified mind. If you, as I doubt not, cherish the love of honorable fame, if you regard the opinions of your fellow men; and if you would not garrison your professions of the Holy Principles of Christianity, you have seen a chance in your old age to snatch from that oblivion into which you and all men, most presently fall, the glorious claim to the recollection of a grateful nation and one brilliant inscription on the tablet of history.

To effect this you must endeavor to convince the royal party in your court, of the expediency of acknowledging the independence of the Haytiens, which has, by the exertion of those means once used to enslave her, effected her emancipation from the control of every power, and has honorably maintained independence in the face of the whole world, for a period of more than eighteen years, and exercised all the rights of national sovereignty. In the mildness of her government, the justice of her laws, the wisdom of her administration, and the firmness of her policy, she has evinced all the high characteristics of a well organized and independent state: a title which she as justly claims as any country on the globe. The claims of any Foreign Nation, upon the soil or people of Hayti; must now be as ridiculous as would be the pretensions of Great Britain to the soil and citizens of the United States; and every foreign title to her sovereignty will be viewed by mankind as equally futile with the droogant claim of England to the Crown of France.

You are, Sir, in duty bound, by the laws of God, man, and morality, to perform towards the Haytiens all the good offices you possibly can, in reparation of past injuries inflicted on themselves and their wretched ancestors, by the late tyrants of that delicious island. The people to whom I call your attention are—a people who have purchased the soil they inhabit—with their sweat, and tears, and blood: thousands of their ancestors, lingered out a miserable life and ended a noisome existence, in satiating the avarice and capricious cruelty of inhuman individuals of the French nation, and at the same time to enrich France.

It would redound to the honor of France to be the first in acknowledging, as they were the first in violating the natural rights of the Haytiens. —The French nation profess to be Christians; their religion impressively teaches that all mankind are free and equal; as Christians, religion inculcates the acknowledgement of error, requires the retribution of wrong, and demands repentance for crime. If then Sir, you believe in the salvation through penance, you should endeavor to avert the just vengeance of insulted heaven, for various national and impious outrages of the decrees of God and of nature. As an act of faith, hope and charity proclaim the restoration of liberty and acknowledge the independence of a land which your nation so long have oppressed; not reserving yourselves to be the last among the nations in recognizing that independence which it is beyond all your efforts to over brow.

It would produce important advantages to France, to be early in securing an uninterrupted intercourse with a country whose trade can render such benefit to her citizens, such profit to her merchants, and such revenue to her government. It is absolutely necessary to the safety and prosperity of those enterprising and industrious subjects of France who may, in the prosecution of commerce, be cast on the coasts of Hayti, land in her territory, or fall in the power of her cruisers, that they be able to claim that protection which a good and regular treaty would guarantee. Other countries enjoy a lucrative and unrestrained commerce with that rich island. The flags of all nations, except the French, may be seen waving in the harbors of Hayti; while the vessels of your Kingdom are daily subjected to aggravated expenses, grievous inconveniences, and imminent hazards, in entering the ports of the republic under foreign colors. To obviate those troubles and losses to which your subjects and their property are now unnecessarily exposed, and to avail yourselves of the privileges of other friendly powers; are considerations which, with a politic Prince, and a wise administration, ought to afford a grand moral motive to the establishment of reciprocal amity between the mother and her enfranchised off-pring.

Aware of the impossibility of ever again tyrannising over a people who have been so long their own absolute masters, and who have assumed the respectable character of a free nation those of the old white settlers who have not already passed to the tomb, have in general abandoned all idea of the most distant hope of a second thralldom of the now free and happy island of Hayti. Yet, there may be some deluded, ungenerous, ignorant or cowardly old planters, who were the first to desert their ill omened homes at the dawn of danger, and would now were they compelled by force or impelled by interest, be the last to return upon their claimed estates; yet are perhaps, continually dinning your royal ears and distracting your councils, with the feasibility of their visionary schemes for the reconquest of an extensive, rich and populous country. Believe me, Sir, the inhabitants entertain all that horror natural to man, from the memory of slavery, some of them yet smart with keen recollections of the fiend-like scourge of cruel bondage and would to a man—yes, even the women, whose tender sex did not exempt them from the horrible inflictions of the barbarian's lash; and even the children whose innocent years screened them not, and whose delicate bodies were alike bowed down by the burthen of the cruel task-master. All would perish in one united and desperate struggle against their tyrants; and if necessary in one wide spread ruin, bury themselves and their odious adversaries. Fleets and armies have already been destroyed and immense treasures wasted in this diabolical project; with the sorry result to France of shame and dishonour. While the French people were fighting for freedom at home, abroad they were endeavoring to enslave others! How inconsistent!—how ridiculous!—how disgraceful!—Will you not, Sir, profit by the experience of ages, and hearken to the dictates of wisdom! It were indeed more than ridiculous, if you have men and money to spare for such enterprises, to select some new site and there commence a new colony. We are now in a time when men expect to advance; and it is absurd to imagine that they can be brought back to the old superstitious and barbarous system. All classes of citizens, by the wide dissemination of learning, have become statesmen; therefore, should an attempt be made in France to this day to force upon her subjects the purpose of subjecting Hayti; you may find that her citizens and soldiers would be opposed to such a measure, being well aware of the rights of a free people, not to feel, that the only resource now left them for retrieving and securing their own rights is to resist and protect the rights of others.—The result might prove more fatal to your repose, than, to your brother of Spain, did the armada assembled at Cadiz in 1818, for the purpose of subduing South America: it might give to the French people not only a Constitution but a Napoleon, or a republic. Assure yourself, Sir, that no portion of the Gallic soldiery would debase themselves to club together in an Army of the Faith, under the command of captains a perreque tondue, after having so long been marshalled by leaders a grande moustache. Are not the last words of Frenchmen, at this day, notwithstanding the threats and executions of the scaffold —“ God, France and Liberty.”

As to the Haytiens, believe me, Sir, you will find them a brave and determined people. They are unalienably united and well disciplined, enured to their climate, acquainted with their country and devoted to their cause. Their magazines and arsenals are well supplied, their coasts well fortified, and themselves in every respect well prepared for the defence of those glorious privileges which they now so happily enjoy under the government of their choice—universal, individual and national Independence. Of this truth your commissioners of 1818, must be very sensible, if the just disdain with which the Haytiens refused your offered protection, may be received as evidence of the strength and security of their nation. They request of you only to say, that you will let them alone. They can protect themselves.

Indeed, the entire suppression of that diabolical, unchristian and unmanly traffic, the slave trade, while it reflect a radiance round those nations, so active in its glorious achievement, has determined the destiny of all slave countries on this side the Atlantic. By cutting off those supplies with which they inhumanly replenished their human plantation stock, the vassal becomes more valuable to his Lord, who, on supplies with which they inhumanly replenished their human plantation stock, the vassal becomes more valuable to his Lord, who, on account of the enhanced difficulty and expense in recruiting his gangs, is compelled, through interest, to relax those tortures, whereby they were heretofore destroyed in such awful numbers, and with such seeming disregard to either moral or pecuniary considerations. Now, remaining unmixed with rude barbarians, who formerly were imported by cargoes and amalgamated with the native blacks, which kept up the deep intellectual darkness of the savage, amongst the slave population of the colonies, they will, as is the nature of man in an unfluctuating society, attain one language, one tone of feeling, a reciprocity of sympathies, a correspondence of views, an association of kindred ties, a strong union of interests, and gradually advance to that mental illumination which awakens a sense of rights, impels to resistance of wrongs, teaches the means of redress, and urges the proud soul to an effort at emancipation. When we conceive the condition of a people who have no home on the earth, no towns, no temples, no habitations to attach their interests, no hopes save to breathe and to bleed, no privileges above the domestic brute, wholly alienated from the society around them, and influenced against all their neighbors: and if we recollect the desperation of men contending for their lives and liberties—how, like the awful avalanches of the Alps, they roll along gathering strength to burst, pregnant with ruin on some fated point, sweeping with the scythe of death, through a devoted country; terror in their step—in their path horror—each stride desolation. They rage as the conflagration of a world, deluging the land with their own blood and with the ashes of their adversary; from which the nation must resuscitate with a new spirit, new features, new feelings and a new character; converting a Canaan into a Judea—planting upon the hot beds of despotism an extensive and flourishing garden of freedom; and if we view the overwhelming excess of the colored classes in those colonies, and the frightful feebleness of the present predominant party—as, upon the re-

Res. C-7, 15

ceived principles of philosophy, the heavier body must displace the lighter—the inevitable result will be the ultimate overthrow, throughout these now wretched isles, of all those abominations which brought the wrath of heaven upon St. Domingo; and, so far from leaving any room for the indulgence of delusive designs upon the Gallo-African republic of Hayti, encourages the philanthropic hope and inspires the plain political prophecy, that, these hitherto benighted regions, participating in the dawning illumination of the universe, shall burst the cankerous fetters of cruel captivity—and surmounting the ungenerous prejudices of bigotted ignorance, under the holy ensign of *Liberty, Equality, Independence*, the enlightened and united states of the West Indies, will take their place among the nations of the earth.

The two great republics of North and South America extend their peninsular shores to embrace those Isles; this young republic glows amongst them; the whole continent blazes in one flame of freedom; will not some sparks of Liberty's mild fire fly there; can all the monarchs and the monsters among men prevent them? My people—my people—all mankind—are free, saith the Lord; and I alone am their Master! Sovereign of Nature, Emperor of the Universe, King of Heaven and of Earth—Shall My creatures impiously usurp My appellations; have they My powers—dare they take My titles—dare they arrogate My attributes? My wisdom and justice shall shine amongst men; and their crafts shall vanish as mist: My people are free, and I alone shall they call master!

Thus do I presume to represent to the Sovereign of France, the state of this hemisphere; of which, as you have never been in it, you may possibly be ignorant. But, to that small speck thereof, called Hayti, do I most earnestly and especially invite your august attention. Should your most Christian Majesty deny or delay what, in Christian Charity, you are bound to perform; your name will be pronounced—not only by the Haytians, by all true Christians, by every Philanthropist, but by the World—with contempt and abhorrence and transmitted to after ages with infamy, as a tyrannic, hardened hypocrite.

WM. BEZEAU,

*Late a Captain 26th regiment, U. S. Army.*



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